

PROPOSAL 2- BELOW GRADE NINE PROPOSAL - March 28, 2006

Rationale – This proposal is designed to lessen the “Open Season” on rising 9th graders. In many areas, when students have participated at the high school level while being enrolled below grade nine, there can be a climate for nearly college level “recruiting” of the kids before and upon 8th grade graduation. This change would clarify that if students participate at any level at a KHSAA member school while enrolled below grade nine, they shall enroll in that member school or lose one year of eligibility at all levels in all sports and a second year at the varsity level. This change is basically a return the transfer rule to its pre-1982 form when Bylaw 6 applied any time a student had represented a member school. The proposal rule is more stringent in that it applies to all levels of play and applies longer than a one-year penalty.

Bylaw 6. Transfer Rule

Sec. 1) Domestic Students

Any student who has been enrolled in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) and has participated in any varsity game in any sport at any school following enrollment in grade nine (9) and who then transfers schools shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletics at any level in any sport for one year from the date of enrollment in the new school. Any student who has participated in a contest at any level in any sport representing a member school while being enrolled in grades seven (7) or eight (8) and who then enrolls at a different member school (grade nine or above) shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletics at any level in any sport for the first year of enrollment, and ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at the varsity level in any sport during the second year of enrollment at the member school.

The Commissioner has discretion (but is not required) to waive the period of ineligibility set forth above if one of the following exceptions has been met. Determinations of whether a student shall be granted a waiver pursuant to this rule shall be based on the circumstances existing as of the date of enrollment at the new school. The KHSAA shall not recognize as grounds for a waiver of the period of ineligibility an argument that the educational needs of the transferring students would be better served through a transfer.

f) **NON ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FOR AN ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR** - In the event that the transferring student did not participate in an interscholastic contest at any level in any sport while enrolled in grades nine through twelve at the sending school during the entire academic school year immediately preceding the change in schools.

THIS PROPOSAL MAKES NO OTHER CHANGES IN THE DOCUMENTED EXCEPTIONS FOR A WAIVER OF THE PERIOD OF INELIGIBILITY (LETTERED a-e and g-h in the 2005-2006 Handbook). The minor change in (f) is necessary due to potential conflict with the newly adopted provision.

Case BL-6-14- What does the word “sport” as used in Bylaw 6 represent with respect to athletic participation?

Sport has been defined as those sports which the KHSAA sanctions AND sponsors a championship. “Sport” includes baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, softball (fast and slow pitch), swimming, tennis, track, volleyball and wrestling. Students whose only participation in interscholastic athletics involves participation in sports or activities other than those listed are not subject to the provisions of Bylaw 6.

Effective Date and Implementation Issues: Could be effective immediately. Would require minor revision to participation list report to ensure compliance monitoring. Would have to address the issue of schools arbitrarily inserting students into contests to “lock them in” to particular schools. In addition, would have to work with all school constituencies to ensure education or parents to this rule as it could impact decisions to allow them to play on a high school team while enrolled below grade nine.